



Calgary

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

September 28th, 2015

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Rosa Marchitelli.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as, an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains helpful vocabulary explanations and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. These lessons are geared towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4/5 or equivalent).



Lesson Plan prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.



NEWSCAST 1: THE CALGARY ECONOMY

General Warm-up Activity

What do you know about the current economy? What has happened in recent months?
What have you heard about Calgary's economy?

Before you listen to the news story, complete the vocabulary activities. These will help you to understand the listening more easily.

VOCABULARY

Complete the vocabulary activities below before listening to the news story.

Vocabulary Building Activity 1: Creating Awareness

A) Look at the words below. Circle the words you do not know.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| to estimate | economy | dramatic | a drop |
| growth | to expect | to shrink | surprise |
| due to | a ripple effect | sectors | retail |

B) Look at the words above. Place the words in the following categories.

Noun:

Verb:

Adjective:

Adverb:

Phrase:

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Finding Meaning Using Synonyms

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words.

| Answer | Word used in news story | Synonyms |
|--------|-------------------------|--|
| | 1) to estimate | a) to anticipate to look forward to to believe |
| | 2) economy | b) considerable noticeable significant |
| | 3) dramatic | c) wealth resources financial system |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| | 4) a drop | d) the sale of goods to the public |
| | 5) growth | e) because of caused by owing to |
| | 6) to expect | f) an area or portion that is distinct from others |
| | 7) to shrink | g) to decrease to reduce to decline |
| | 8) surprise | h) development maturation expansion |
| | 9) due to | i) to guess to approximate to calculate |
| | 10) a ripple effect | j) fall descend plummet |
| | 11) sectors | k) shock eye-opener revelation |
| | 12) retail | l) the continuing and spreading results of an event or action |

LISTENING

Complete the listening activities below in order.

Pre-listening Activity

What have you heard recently about the Calgary economy? What is the Conference Board of Canada?

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

First, listen for overall comprehension. Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Now listen to the news story for a second time. This time listen carefully and determine if the statements below are true or false.

1. _____ Calgary's economy will dramatic growth this year compared to last year.
2. _____ In 2014 Calgary's economy grew by 5.1%.
3. _____ The Conference Board of Canada expects the economy to expand by 0.5%.
4. _____ No one is shocked by this news.
5. _____ Other sectors are expected to decrease as a result of energy prices.

Listening Activity 3: Final Listening

Now listen to the news story for a third time. This time, make a note of:

- other words that you do not understand;
 - questions that you have; or
 - observations about grammar or vocabulary.
-
-

Questions for consideration/discussion:

How is the drop in oil prices affecting you? Is your country impacted by the drop in oil prices? Why or why not?

LINK TO RELATED STORY



"Anybody can be successful in good times, it's hard to be successful in bad times. So if you are successful in the bad times, you have no problem to be successful in good times. That's the lesson I try to take from this whole experience right now."

- Rafael Ford, Entrepreneur

Rafael Ford heads up a company called Montan Energy - a startup that's aiming to develop oil and gas production and exploration in Peru. He is an entrepreneur who finds himself trying to raise money for his startup at the worst possible time. And he knows, he's not the only one running into trouble.

For link, click: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-september-22-2015-1.3238137/cenovus-president-says-the-oil-industry-is-down-but-not-out-1.3238190>

NEWSCAST 2 (LOCAL NEWS STORY): SCHOOL ZONES



General Warm-up Activity

What do you know about school zones? Have you heard about recent changes to school zones?

VOCABULARY

Complete the vocabulary activities below before listening to the news story.

Vocabulary Building Activity 1: Creating Awareness

Look at the words below. Circle the words you know.

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| rules | school zone | speed limit | in effect |
| to ramp up | to make sure | to slow down | playground |

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Providing Explanations

Compare the words you know to the words your classmate knows if in a classroom setting. Then, take turns explaining the words you know using your own words and not a dictionary.

If not in a classroom setting, explain the words you know aloud. Observe which words are more easy or difficult to explain.

Vocabulary Building Activity 3: Seeking Meaning

Now, write down the words or phrases you are unsure of and look up their meanings in a dictionary.

| WORD/PHRASE | DEFINITION |
|-------------|------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(See answer key for definitions)

LISTENING

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the second news story from the audio file. First, listen for overall comprehension.

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

New _____ around _____ zone
speed limits are now in effect. School zones throughout Calgary have been
_____ to playground zones. This means the
_____ speed limit is now in
effect until _____ every night. Calgary Police say they have
ramped up efforts to make sure Calgarians learn to _____
down.

(See answer key for answers)

Language Discussion Questions:

What do you think about the change in school zones? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

LINK TO NEWS STORY

For a link to the full news story, click: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/school-zones-now-playground-zones-in-calgary-1.3198229>

NEWSCAST 3 (LOCAL NEWS STORY): CHANGES TO CALGARY FIRE DEPARTMENT



General Warm-up Activity

What role does the fire department have in your community? What events have occurred where firefighters have come to the rescue? In general, what do you know about firefighters? Have you ever visited one of the local fire departments?

VOCABULARY

Before you listen to the news story, complete the vocabulary activity below. This will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary Activity 1: Developing knowledge

Choose the correct definition that best matches the word/phrase.

| ANSWER | WORDS/PHRASES | DEFINITION |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 1) to give your take on something | a) to occur throughout |
| | 2) to propose | b) to be in approval |
| | 3) to recommend | c) to provide your opinion |
| | 4) to save | d) to put something forward |
| | 5) to reduce | e) to offer a suggestion |
| | 6) to have support | f) to be debatable |
| | 7) controversial | g) to make smaller |
| | 8) city-wide | h) to keep for future use |

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING

Listening Activity 1: Listening for comprehension

Listen to the third news story from the audio file. First, listen for overall comprehension.

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen to the news story again. While you listen, take notes to respond to the following questions.

| QUESTIONS | NOTES/RESPONSES |
|--|-----------------|
| 1) What will Calgarians have the chance to do? | |
| 2) How many changes are being recommended? | |
| 3) What will the proposed changes do? | |
| 4) Which changes have support? | |
| 5) Which changes are controversial? | |
| 6) When is the next committee meeting? | |

(See the answer key for answers)

Additional Activities:

- 1) Compare your answers with a partner or colleague if doing this in a classroom setting or with a colleague.
- 2) Use your notes to retell this story in English to a friend or family member to practice your speaking skills.

LINK TO VIDEO-MEDIATED STORY

For more details on this story, click: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-fire-department-budget-2015-1.3237893>

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS



| | WEEKLY NEWS STORIES | TIME |
|-----------------------------|--|------|
| Introduction | Hi. This is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of September 28 th . | 0:00 |
| News Story 1 (Local) | <p>The Conference Board of Canada estimates Calgary's economy will see a dramatic drop in growth this year compared to last year. In 2014 Calgary's economy expanded by 5.1 percent but the board expects it will shrink this year by half a percent. This comes as no surprise to anyone due to the big drop in energy prices this year.</p> <p>The board is expecting a ripple effect with a drop in other sectors as well including: home construction and retail.</p> | 0:09 |
| News Story 2 (Local) | New rules around school zone speed limits are now in effect. School zones throughout Calgary have been changed to playground zones. This means the 30 kilometre speed limit is now in effect until 9:00pm every night. Calgary Police say they have ramped up efforts to make sure Calgarians learn to slow down. | 0:46 |
| News Story 3 (Local) | Calgarians will get a chance to give their take on proposed changes to the Calgary Fire Department. A review recommends three dozen changes that would save millions of dollars. Some of those changes that include reducing the number of senior managers seem to have city council's support. However, others are more controversial - like closing five fire stations or relaxing a city-wide target of getting a fire truck to most calls in seven minutes or less. Changes in the fire department will be discussed at another committee meeting in November. | 1:12 |

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1: THE CALGARY ECONOMY

Vocabulary Building Activity 1: Creating Awareness

B) Look at the words above. Place the words in the following categories.

Noun: **economy, a drop, growth, surprise, sectors, retail, a ripple effect**

Verb: **to estimate, to expect, to shrink**

Adjective: **dramatic, city-wide**

Adverb:

Phrase: **due to**

Vocabulary Building Activity 2: Finding Meaning Using Synonyms

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words.

| Answer | Word used in news story | Synonyms |
|--------|-------------------------|--|
| I | 1) to estimate | a) to anticipate to look forward to to believe |
| C | 2) economy | b) considerable noticeable significant |
| B | 3) dramatic | c) wealth resources financial system |
| J | 4) a drop | d) the sale of goods to the public |
| H | 5) growth | e) because of caused by owing to |
| A | 6) to expect | f) an area or portion that is distinct from others |
| G | 7) to shrink | g) to decrease to reduce to lessen |
| K | 8) surprise | h) development maturation expansion |
| E | 9) due to | i) to guess to approximate to calculate |
| L | 10) a ripple effect | j) fall descend |

| | | |
|---|-------------|--|
| | | plummet |
| F | 11) sectors | k) shock eye-opener revelation |
| D | 12) retail | l) the continuing and spreading results of an event or action |

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Now listen to the news story for a second time. This time listen carefully and determine if the statements below are true or false.

1. **F** Calgary's economy will dramatic grow this year compared to last year.
2. **T** In 2014 Calgary's economy grew by 5.1%.
3. **F** The Conference Board of Canada expects the economy to expand by 0.5%.
4. **T** No one is shocked by this news.
5. **T** Other sectors are expected to decrease as a result of energy prices.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: SCHOOL ZONES

Vocabulary Building Activity 3: Seeking Meaning

Now, write down the words or phrases you are unsure of and look up their meanings in a dictionary.

| WORD/PHRASE | DEFINITION |
|--------------|--|
| rules | A set of explicit or understood regulations or principles |
| school zone | The area on a street near a school or a crosswalk that leads to a school |
| speed limit | The maximum speed limit permitted in a particular area |
| in effect | In operation; in force |
| to ramp up | To increase |
| to make sure | To establish that something is so; to confirm |
| to slow down | To reduce speed; to decline |
| playground | An outdoor area for children to play on at a school or public park |

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

New **rules** around **school** zone speed limits are now in effect. School zones throughout Calgary have been **changed** to playground zones. This means the **30 kilometre/kilometer** speed limit is now in effect until **9PM/9:00pm** every night. Calgary Police say they have ramped up efforts to make sure Calgarians learn to **slow** down.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: CHANGES TO CALGARY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Vocabulary Activity 1: Developing knowledge

Choose the correct definition that best matches the word/phrase.

| ANSWER | WORDS/PHRASES | DEFINITION |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 9) to give your take on something | i) to occur throughout |
| | 10) to propose | j) to be in approval |
| | 11) to recommend | k) to provide your opinion |
| | 12) to save | l) to put something forward |
| | 13) to reduce | m) to offer a suggestion |
| | 14) to have support | n) to be debatable |
| | 15) controversial | o) to make smaller |
| | 16) city-wide | p) to keep for future use |

Listening Activity 2: Listening for specific purposes

Listen to the news story again. While you listen, take notes to respond to the following questions.

| QUESTIONS | NOTES/RESPONSES |
|--|---|
| 1) What will Calgarians have the chance to do? | To give their opinion to proposed changes to the Calgary Fire Department |
| 2) How many changes are being recommended? | Three dozen / 3 dozen / 36 |
| 3) What will the proposed changes do? | Save millions of dollars / Save money / Cut costs |
| 4) Which changes have support? | Reducing the number of senior managers |
| 5) Which changes are controversial? | Closing stations Relaxing targets/timeframes when responding to a call |
| 6) When is the next committee meeting? | November |